GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:28
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
INDIANS IN PAK JAILS
Pathak Shri Harin;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of fishermen and boats captured by the Pakistan Marine Security Agency in the last six months and till date from the Gulf of Kutch;

(b) the number out of them released by the Pakistan Government till date; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to get the rest of the fishermen, civilians and prisoners of war lodged in Pakistani jails released at the earliest.

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (c) A statement is placed on the table of the house.

Statement referred to in Part (a to c) to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 28 (Priority VIII) for answer on 02.03.05 regarding `Indians in Pak Jails`

(a) According to available information, the number of Indian fishermen and boats captured by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency in the last 6 months, from September 2004 to February 2005, is as follows:

Month	Number of fishermen	Number of boats
September 04	115	18
October 04	54	9
November 04	132	23
December 04	157	29
January 05	56	10
February 05	nil	nil
Total	514	89

(b) No Indian fisherman arrested in the past six months has so far been released. However, Pakistan Government released 266 Indian fishermen on January 06, 2005 who were arrested between September 2003 and February 2004. Pakistan Government has granted consular access to approximately 650 fishermen, and 100 civilian prisoners during January-February 2005.

(c) The Government of India is in constant touch with the Government of Pakistan on the issue of POWs, and for the early release of civilian prisoners as well as the apprehended Indian fishermen along with their boats. Pakistan also released 37 civilian prisoners during August - December 2004. However, the Government of Pakistan has consistently denied the existence of any Indian POWs in Pakistan.